



# The TRUMPET

A publication from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal | Fall 2017

## Kansas Search & Rescue Teams Respond to Texas after Hurricane Harvey

Fire Prevention Week  
2017 Poster Contest  
Fall Fire Safety

ALSO: Kansas State Fair, Smoke Alarms, By the Numbers, Haunted House Safety



## FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

It's hard to imagine a hurricane season having an impact on Kansas, but the 2017 season did just that. August and September saw three major hurricanes, Harvey, Irma and Maria, take its toll on the United States. While the damage caused by the hurricanes was devastating, what stood out the most was the selfless, willingness of first responders to jump in to help. Kansas' first responders didn't hesitate to answer the call that Texas sent out after Hurricane Harvey swept through its communities.

Through our Kansas Search and Rescue Program, we sent over 50 fire, law enforcement and first responder personnel into extreme conditions, and they all rose to the occasion, working seamlessly together. The coordination effort was tremendous, as we had 16 different agencies and 12 different counties represented in the nine teams we sent. The coordination of this response could not have been possible without the hard work and long hours of a number of individuals at the Kansas Department of Emergency Management and two individuals from our office, Hank DuPont, our Emergency Responses Division Chief, and Randy Hill, our Search and Rescue Coordinator.

The work they all did in Texas, searching over 1,200 structures and completing roughly 30 evacuations, was a testament to their dedication to helping others. They not only represented the Kansas Search and Rescue program, but they represented the entire state of Kansas, and for that, I want to personally say thank you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Doug Jorgensen".

Doug Jorgensen  
State Fire Marshal

## CONTENTS

• Hot Spots @ OSFM	3	• Fire Prevention Week	10
• Kansas Rescue Team Harvey Response	4-5	• Smoke Alarm Sounds: Do You Know What to Do?	11
• Governor Recognizes Kansas Rescue Teams	6	• Haunted House Safety	12
• OSFM Goes to Kansas State Fair	7	• Fall Fire Safety Tips	13
• 2017 Fire Safety Poster Contest	8-9	• By The Numbers	14

# HOT SPOTS @ OSFM



## Welcome, Mike Kriesel, New Fire Prevention Inspector

We are pleased to welcome Mike Kriesel, who has joined our Prevention team as a Fire Prevention Inspector. Mike will continue to work at the Osawatimie Fire Department, where he has volunteered for over 11 years and has been a diver for two years.

Mike, a native Kansan, grew up in Paola and graduated from Paola High School. He resides in Osawatimie with his wife, Erica, and their five children. When he's not working, Mike enjoys camping and the outdoors with his family.

"I love my work at the fire station," Mike said. "And I'm looking forward to building a career in fire service."

Welcome, Mike!



## OUR MISSION

The agency's mission is to reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, education, hazardous material and search & rescue incident responses.

## OUR PURPOSE

To reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through:

- Inspection
- Enforcement
- Plans Review
- Fireworks and Explosives Regulation
- Investigation
- Hazardous material incident mitigation
- Public education
- Coordination of search and rescue efforts

## Jill Bronaugh joins OSFM as Communications Manager



Jill Bronaugh has joined the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal as its public information manager. Jill comes to our agency following a 22-year career in media and public relations. Most recently, she served as the employer development and marketing specialist for the Kansas Department for Children and Families in the Rehabilitation Services division.

Jill has lived in Topeka since 1997, when she moved across the country from Florida for a position with the *Topeka Capital-Journal*. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Florida and started her career as a reporter for the *St. Augustine Record*.

When not at work, Jill enjoys reading and managing the busy lives of her three children.

"I'm looking forward to putting my communication skills to work through safety education and public awareness," Jill said. "It's important to me that I try to make a difference, not only in my personal life, but also in my career."

## The TRUMPET

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## STAY CONNECTED



# Kansas Search & Rescue Swiftwater/Flood Teams Deployment to Texas after Hurricane Harvey



**Topeka, KS.** – Water rescue teams from agencies across Kansas who were deployed to Texas to assist in recovery efforts from Hurricane-turned-Tropical Depression Harvey all returned to Kansas on the morning of Sept. 5.

“This was a great effort by so many departments across the state,” Randy Hill, the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal Search and Rescue Coordinator, said. “It was hard work. Because of the water contamination, it was imperative to wear dry suits, which were extremely hot and steamy in the Texas heat. We kept the teams hydrated and had to work shorter cycles, but everyone worked so well together among the Kansas teams and other teams from across the country.”

The crews, who left on August 30, were tasked to search for and transport any people and animals stranded by flood waters. Kansas sent water rescue personnel, along with hard-bottom, air boats, and inflatable boats.

Kansas Search & Rescue swift-water/flood teams, along with

teams from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, worked a joint 12-hour operational period Sunday in Katy, Texas, with teams from Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Missouri. Collectively there were 15 strike teams with each team consisting of five boat squads for a total of 75 water assets. Kansas strike teams searched close to 1,200 structures and evacuated 27 individuals.

In total, the joint operation resulted in over 4000 structures searched and over 100 evacuations. The teams also worked on other small assignments and were on standby as needed.

“We sent over 50 fire, law enforcement and first responder personnel to Texas,” Doug Jorgensen, Kansas Fire Marshal, said. “I’m proud of the hard work and sacrifice of our Kansas first responders when it came to helping the citizens of Texas during this difficult time. They did a spectacular job down there under difficult conditions, and I’m happy they all made it back safely.”





# Hurricane Harvey, Texas



## Agencies Involved:

Chanute Fire Department, Derby Fire Department, Hutchinson Fire Department, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal, Manhattan Fire Department, Mission Township Fire Department, Neodesha Fire Department, Parsons Fire Department, Pittsburg Fire Department, Salina Fire Department, Saline County Sheriff's Office, Sedgwick County Fire District #1, Shawnee Fire Department, South Hutchinson Police, Winfield Fire Department



# Governor Recognizes Kansas Search & Rescue Teams



*The Governor and Lt. Governor spoke to the first responders and their families at the Capitol to recognize the willingness and sacrifice of our Kansas Search and Rescue Teams.*



*Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen, Hank DuPont, OSFM Emergency Response Chief, Liz Adams, OSFM Emergency Response, and Randy Hill, OSFM Search and Rescue Coordinator.*

## At Cedar Crest...



*Lt. Governor Colyer speaks to a group of first responders who deployed to Texas at the reception at Cedar Crest.*

On September 27, 2017, the Governor and Lt. Governor hosted a recognition ceremony for the Kansas Search and Rescue Swiftwater/Flood teams who were deployed to Texas after Hurricane Harvey. Afterwards, there was a reception at Cedar Crest.

The Kansas Search and Rescue Program is relatively new to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. It was started 10 years ago after the Greensburg Tornado. A hand full of first responders realized Kansas needed a better and more organized response to natural disasters in the state and began the effort that has become the Kansas Search and Rescue Program.

When OSFM was first contacted by the Search and Rescue Advisory group and asked to be the State agency to help administer the program for Kansas, they did not hesitate to become involved. OSFM wanted to make sure that this valuable tool remained an asset for the state, but that it also would be available for nationwide response if called upon.







# Kansas State Fair

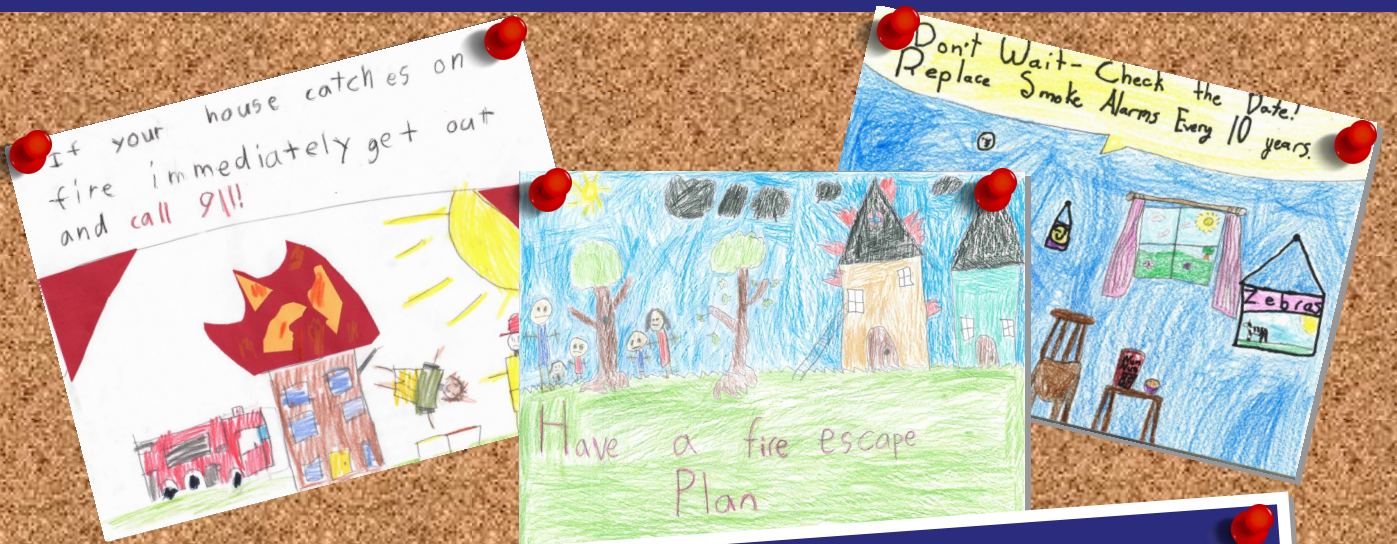


## Kansas Preparedness Day September 11, 2017





# 2017 FIRE SAFETY POSTER CONTEST



**WHO:** Kansas elementary students  
K-5th grades



**THEME:** Every Second Counts,  
Plan 2 Ways Out!



**DEADLINE:** November 10, 2017

For entry details, visit: [www.firemarshal.ks.gov](http://www.firemarshal.ks.gov)





# 2017 Fire Safety Poster Contest Application



## Judging Criteria

- Fire safety message related to this year's theme
- Visual appeal
- Originality

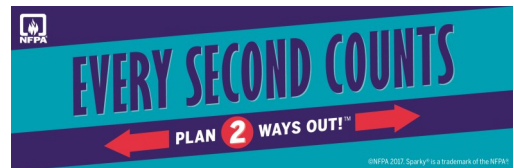
## Dates and Deadlines

- **Nov. 10**  
Posters due for local judging.
- **Dec. 1**  
Posters due for final OSFM judging.
- **Jan. 5**  
State contest winners announced.

## Winners

- OSFM will select a winner and honorable mention per grade.
- All winning and honorable mention posters will be displayed at the Capitol for one week in January and be featured in the annual Kansas Fire Safety Calendar.
- Visit [www.firemarshal.ks.gov](http://www.firemarshal.ks.gov) for any questions or email [kelly.ingold@ks.gov](mailto:kelly.ingold@ks.gov).

*\*\*By submitting an entry to the Fire Safety Poster Contest, you give consent for the poster to be used for reproduction and the OSFM is authorized to use photos of the child and their poster for recognition and promotional purposes.*



## How to Enter

- Design a poster that visually displays this year's fire safety theme.
- Poster must be the **original** work of an **individual** student. All words should be **spelled correctly** and **readable** at a distance.
- Poster must be 11" WIDE by 8½" TALL (standard copy paper size), **landscape** orientation.

## How to Submit Your Poster

- Entries **MUST** have the **FULLY** completed application below attached on the back of the poster.
- Submit your poster to your local fire department (or school officials) for one finalist from each grade to be selected to enter the state contest.

Contestant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

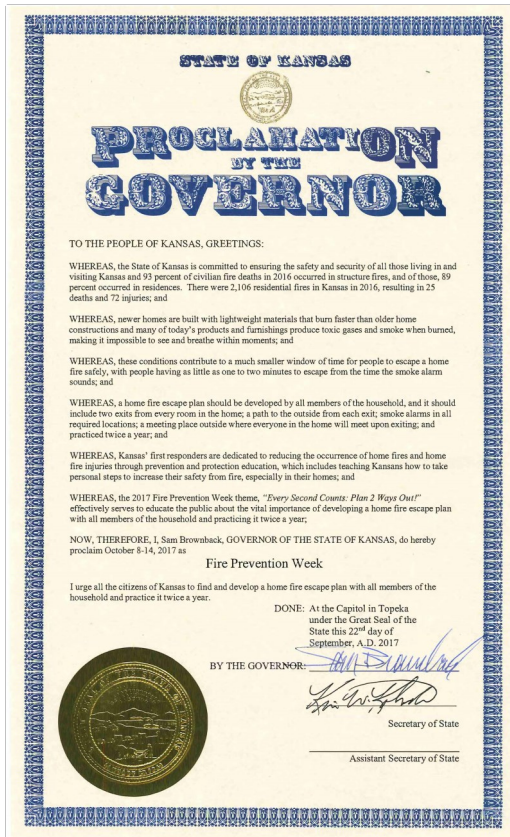
Teacher Name & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

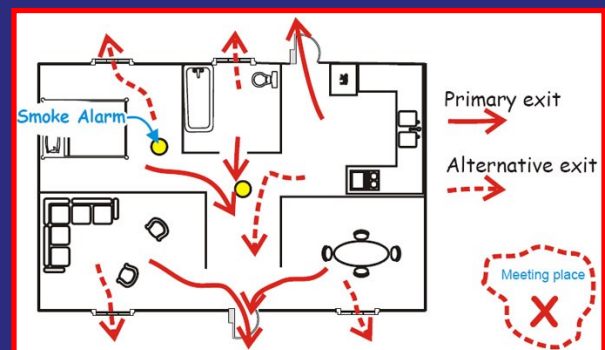
# Fire Prevention Week 2017



**Kansas Governor Sam Brownback** signed the proclamation on Sept. 22, designating Oct. 8-14, 2017, as Fire Prevention Week in Kansas. From left: Brad Smith, Kansas Association of Fire Chiefs, Jill Bronaugh, OSFM, Jason Hartman, Kansas Forest Service, Cherie Sage, SafeKids Kansas, Governor Brownback, Jane Blocher, American Red Cross Kansas, Doug Jorgensen, OSFM, Kelly Ingold, OSFM, Kevin Flory, Kansas Firefighters Association, and Rick Stillwagon, Manhattan Fire Department.

## Developing and practicing a home escape plan

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave — this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.



\*Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week website, [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org). © 2017 NFPA.



# Smoke Alarm Sounds: Do You Know What to Do?



Consider this scenario: It's 2 o'clock in the morning. You and your family are fast asleep when you awaken to the smoke alarm sounding and the smell of smoke. What do you do? If you and your family don't have a plan in place, it could jeopardize your safety, or even prove deadly.

In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. That's why home escape planning is so critical in a fire situation. It ensures that everyone in the household knows how to use that small window of time wisely.

"Developing and practicing a home escape plan is like building muscle memory," Doug Jorgensen, Kansas Fire Marshal, said. "That pre-planning is what everyone will draw upon to snap into action and escape as quickly as possible in the event of a fire."

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" works to better educate the public about the critical importance of developing a home escape plan and practicing it. The Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is working in coordination with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the official sponsor of the Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, to reinforce those potentially life-saving messages. Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14, 2017.

"Home escape planning is one of the most basic but fundamental elements of home fire safety, and can truly make the difference between life and death in a fire situation," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy.

In support of Fire Prevention Week, OSFM encourages all Kansas households to develop a plan together and practice it. A home escape plan includes working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas. It also includes two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) that's a safe distance from the home.

*For more information about Fire Prevention Week activities in Kansas, visit [www.firemarshal.ks.gov](http://www.firemarshal.ks.gov), to learn more about this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out" and home escape planning, visit [firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org).*

# Haunted House Safety

With Halloween coming upon us, families will soon start visiting haunted houses, ghost walks and other special amusements.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal, Doug Jorgensen, would like to remind everyone that even though these amusements are intended for entertainment, these structures can sometimes present an increased risk with regards to fire and life safety.

Kansas has the 2006 International Fire Code in place, which requires these types of facilities to comply with major components of fire and life safety. History has shown that complying with life safety requirements is vital. The tragic May 11, 1984, fire in the “Haunted Castle,” at the Six Flags Great Adventure Park in New Jersey, resulted in the deaths of eight visitors due to their inability to immediately exit the amusement structure.

If you are considering operating or designing one of these amusements, special attention should be given to the following requirements:

For added safety, it may be necessary to limit occupant load, add additional emergency exits or establish other special precautions to minimize a potential risk due to some unique circumstance. In any event, every effort should be made to provide an enjoyable but safe environment as determined by the local fire inspection authority.

*\*The specific requirements may be modified by the state fire marshal to allow alternative measures to obtain an equivalency to the code. K.S.A.31-136 provides procedures for exemptions of these requirements upon written request. The written request must demonstrate that the specific requirement causes unnecessary hardship.*

Automatic Sprinkler System in accordance with NFPA 13

Travel distance to exits

Use of flammable liquids

Automatic Fire Alarm System in accordance with NFPA 72

Established emergency procedures

Readily available means to notify local fire, police and emergency medical services

Use of combustible interior finish

Location of extinguishing equipment

Exit signs, illumination and emergency lighting

Number of exits

Adequate staff trained in evacuation and equipped with flashlights



# Fall Fire Safety

## ***Fall Back: Time Change Means Battery Change***



Get in the habit of changing the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors every fall and spring when changing the clocks for Daylight Savings Time. It is also a good idea to make it standard procedure in your household to verify that all fire extinguishers are fully charged and in working order when you adjust the clocks each season.

## Home Heating Tips

### **Central Heating System Safety Tips**

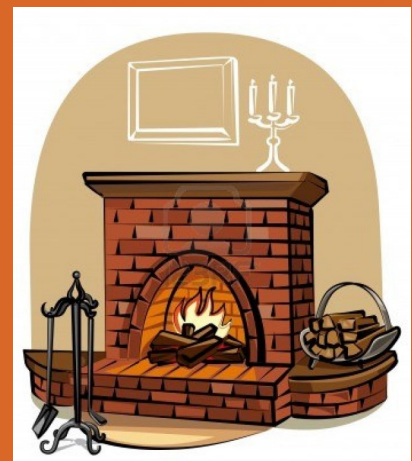
- ◆ Get your central heating system cleaned, inspected and serviced by a certified HVAC (heating, venting and air conditioning) contractor every year before using it.
- ◆ If you have a gas heater, make sure that you have a sufficient quantity of fully functioning carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home.

### **Space Heater Safety Tips**

- ◆ Make sure that any space heaters are surrounded by at least three feet of empty space.
- ◆ Never place clothing or any other objects on a space heater to dry.
- ◆ Do not place space heaters near furniture or drapery.
- ◆ Turn space heaters off when you leave the house or go to bed.
- ◆ Avoid storing any combustible items near heaters.

### **Fireplace Safety Tips**

- ◆ Get your chimney inspected each year to make sure that it is safe.
- ◆ Hire a chimney sweep to clean out your chimney every fall.
- ◆ Repair any cracks in fireplaces.
- ◆ Use fireplace screens to keep sparks and fire debris inside the fireplace.
- ◆ Do not ever use gasoline to start a fire in the fireplace.
- ◆ Never leave a fire unattended.
- ◆ Make sure that combustible materials are not stored within three feet of your fireplace.
- ◆ For natural gas fireplaces, get all connections and lines inspected before use each season.
- ◆ Remember that outdoor fireplaces can be just as dangerous as indoor units, and observe all safety precautions when using them.



# SMOKE ALARMS IN EVERY KANSAS HOME?

*That should be a slam dunk!*



## BY THE NUMBERS

The numbers show us that getting smoke alarms is only the first step to being safe in our homes.

### Step 1 →

Have smoke alarms.

**38%** of deaths in residential fires reported no smoke alarms present.

### Step 2 →

Maintain smoke alarms.

**21%** of the deaths in residences reported a smoke alarm present, but not working.

### Step 3 →

Know what to do if smoke alarms activate.

**40%** of deaths in residences with working smoke alarms reported the occupants failed to respond to the alarm.